

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 44/Number 3 January 2013



Administration Message

Dear Fellow Residents:

Electric Power Aggregation

It used to be that we all turned to ComEd for our electric power and there was no further guess work required because that was the only choice. A few years ago, the electric industry was de-regulated and the electric distribution process was separated from the electric generation process.

ComEd was separated into two companies: ComEd who will continue to own the poles, wires, transformers and other infrastructure, and Excelon, a ComEd sister company who generates the power. In addition, a number of new start-up companies, approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission, have now entered the market to compete with Excelon and offer generated electric power to ComEd customers. This new competitive process is called "Electric Power Aggregation." The Illinois State Statute that established Electric Power Aggregation also granted the Village the ability to use group buying power to negotiate a more favorable contract, thus more favorable rates than can an individual consumer.

The process to allow municipalities to enter these negotiations is dictated by a State Statute, the Illinois Power Agency Act. That Act requires the initial authority of the Village to be approved in a general referendum, and to have two open meetings of the Village residents to gain citizen input into the proposed Village process. Last November's election contained a ballot provision, which was approved, to allow the Village to negotiate, on its resident's behalf, a Village contract for electric power. Two open meetings were also held on December 19, 2012 and January 8, 2013.

The next step of the process is to send a Request for Proposal (RFP) to qualified electric power providers to ask for their proposal subject to the plan as defined in the RFP the Village created. The RFP contains the requirements the Village wants the provider to include in its proposal and contains the input provided by the residents of the Village. Our RFP, which has already been released to qualified suppliers, requires responses to include the qualifications of the responder, the process and costs to provide power under a one, two or three year contract, and any penalties for early termination by a customer.

The next step is to evaluate the responses and select a service provider. That selection process will be conducted after sharing the results of the bids received with the residents in an open meeting. The selection criteria will largely be based on the cost savings defined in the successful bid-

der's response. If no bid is lower than the existing ComEd (Excelon) rates, none of the responses will be selected and the current electrical supply will continue as is.

If or when a successful bidder is selected by the Village the conversion process will begin with a few exceptions. This will be a "opt-out" process for individual consumers. That is, unless you specifically decline to take part in the reduced rates offered by the selected power provider, your power will be provided by the new company.

If or when a successful bidder is selected by the Village not all customers will be converted to the new provider:

There will be an "opt-out" provision for individuals who do not wish to participate in the program.

Consumers who already have an alternate power provider will not be included in the automatic conversion. Instead, they will have to deal with their current provider and then "opt-in" to the Village program, and,

If you have a separate electric heat contract with ComEd, as do some Wilshire residents, or are a business with sufficient electrical demands as to not fall into the small business definition of the plan you will not be included in the conversion.

If you become a part of the Village program, the only change you will note is a different line on your ComEd bill indicating that your power is being provided by another company, and a lesser bill amount. ComEd remains responsible for billing, repairs, service calls and any other service you currently require from your electrical service provider.

This program is but one of the efforts of your Village management team to provide benefits to our residents. Our public meetings are always open to all residents to hear and participate in their Village government. The meeting date to evaluate the responses to the RFP's and shape the Village decision, has not been set but will be made public when determined. Notices will be placed on the Village website (www.indianheadpark-il.gov) and on the notice board at the Heritage Center. Village meetings are typically not well attended so we encourage all to participate.

Respectfully,
Dennis Schermerhorn
Village Trustee

Aging Care Connections



Aging Care Connections has announced that experienced, AARP trained volunteers will be available by appointment for those age 60 and over who would like assistance preparing their income tax returns. To schedule an appointment, which is required, please call (708) 354-1323. Appointments will be scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from February 4th through April 12th. The following documents must be brought to the appointment: last year's federal and state returns; all federal and state tax forms and booklets; all records of interest, dividends, pension, Social Security, retirement annuities and property tax bills. A referral to a professional tax consultant may be made, if the volunteer determines it is necessary.

The Cook County Treasurer's Property Tax Deferral Program filing period is open to eligible seniors through March 1, 2013. This program allows eligible seniors to defer up to 100% of their tax bill depending on the amount of equity they have in their home. This is a tax deferral program, similar to a loan, except repayment is not made until death or the sale of the home, interest is charged at the rate of 6% annually. You must be 65 years of age or older by June 2013; an annual household income must be less than \$55,000; property taxes must be current prior to 2013 and the property must be insured against fire, etc. and spouses must co-sign the application. Please call the information and Assistance Office for an application or for more information at (708) 354-1323, extension 215. Other tax saving programs include Senior Tax Freeze, Homestead Exemption and Senior Citizens Homeowners Exemption. For information and application assistance, please contact the Aging Care connections Information and Assistance Office at (708) 354-1323 or visit the following Website: www.cookcountyassessor.com.

Scheduled Meeting Dates

Village Board of Trustees: 7:30 p.m.:
Thursday, February 14, 2013

Planning and Zoning Commission: 7:30 p.m.:
No meeting scheduled at this time.

Fire and Police Commission: 7:00 p.m.
No meeting scheduled at this time.

E-911 Board: 6:30 p.m.
No meeting scheduled at this time.

All meetings are held at the Municipal Facility at 201 Acacia Drive. All residents are welcomed!

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Smoke Signals
(708) 246-3137

Volume 44, Number 3
Circulation 2000

Smoke Signals is published by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of present activities in the village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and good citizenship.

Teepee Topics news items should be submitted to the Newsletter Coordinator at the Municipal Offices.

Full page advertisements - \$200.00, 1/2 page advertisements - \$125.00, 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" size advertisements - \$75.00, business card size advertisements - \$45.00, trading post advertisements - \$20.00 (no commercial advertisements - the advertisement will run two times at no cost, then a \$20.00 charge).

Extra copies and back issues (up to one year) of *Smoke Signals* can be obtained at the Village Hall.

www.indianheadpark-il.gov

VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK

201 Acacia Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525
(708) 246-3080
www.indianheadpark-il.gov

Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fri 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and
Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Mayor:	Richard S. Andrews	
Trustees:	Deborah A. Anselmo	Dennis Schermerhorn
	Brian T. Bailey	Norman L. Schnauffer
	Anne Bermier	Matthew P. Walsh II

Village Clerk: Joseph V. Consolo

**Chief of Police/
Administrator:** Frank Alonzo, Jr.

Police Dept.	Non-Emergency	246-4534
	Emergency	9-1-1

Fire Dept.	Non-Emergency	352-9229
	Emergency	9-1-1

The advertisements and notices of privately sponsored events or activities contained in *Smoke Signals* are provided for informational purposes only, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Village of Indian Head Park, its officials or employees. The inclusion of a product advertisement or notice of a privately sponsored event or activity herein should not be construed as an endorsement by the Village of that product, event or activity.

S.E.S.A.P.A.R. News

Representatives from SEASPAR announced that an American English Beatles Tribute will take place on Thursday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Tivoli Theatre, located at 5021 Highland Avenue, in Downers Grove. Tickets are \$20.00 (after April 26th, the cost is \$25.00). The proceeds from the event will benefit S.E.A.S.P.A.R. The mission of SEASPAR is to provide recreation programs and services for residents with disabilities, including Indian Head Park residents, to enhance the quality of life for all S.E.A.S.P.A.R. residents with disabilities by providing excellence in recreation through programs and services. For further details please contact the S.E.A.S.P.A.R. offices at (630) 960-7600 or www.seaspar.org.

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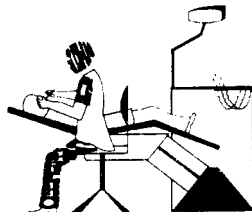
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TEEPEE TOPICS

Our condolences to the Brink family on the loss of Billy Jo Noll-Brink, age 37. Billy Jo was the wife of Dave Brink, the Village's Finance Director. Despite battling Ovarian Cancer for so long, Billy Jo never stopped fighting. She enjoyed traveling, spending time with family and friends and enjoyed her career for 8 years as a 911 telecommunicator for Westcom in Plainfield. She will be missed by everyone.

Our sympathies also to the Alonzo family on the passing of Audrey Kraft who is the mother-in-law of Frank Alonzo, the Village's Chief of Police and Village Administrator.

The Lyonsville Congregational Church located at 6871 Joliet Road, in Indian Head Park, would like to open its doors to groups and organizations that may need space for their meetings. There is plenty of parking, several classrooms and two large basement areas. For more information, contact the church at (708) 246-1255. Also, everyone is invited to attend the Annual Valentine's Day Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale on Saturday, February 9, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 to 12 and children younger than 5 are free.

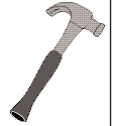
A big thank you to Arrowhead Trail resident's Mr./Mrs. Tom Moran and their friend John Parlier for their generous donation to the Village for landscaping at the Heritage Center.

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